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THE SIXTH QUARTO OF *HAMLET* IN A NEW LIGHT

It has been generally held that the quartos of *Hamlet*, from the second to the sixth inclusive, were printed each from the immediately preceding copy. This statement must, I believe, be accepted for the second, third, fourth, and fifth quartos, but the sixth bears clear traces of different treatment. It evidently had an editor who incorporated into his text many readings occurring in the folios. Besides these he made many other important changes.[1]

In order to prove my point it is simply necessary to present those instances in which the reading of the sixth quarto differs from the corresponding readings of the earlier quartos, but agrees with the reading of the first or of the second folio, or of both folios. Not having access to the fifth and sixth quartos, I have made use of the readings recorded in *The Cambridge Shakespeare* (1892). When no authority is given for the first reading, it is to be understood that it is derived from the folios and quartos not

[1] Compare, for example:

I, ii, 33 *subject*] *subjects* Q6. 215 *made it*] *it made* Q6. 237 *a*] *an* Q6.

I, iii, 7 *primy*] *prime* Q6. 79 *the day*] *to day* Q6. 98 *you? give . . . . truth.*] Q6. *you giue . . . . truth,* Q2Q3. *you giue . . . . truth.* Q4Q5. *you, giue . . . . truth?* Ff.

I, iv, 19 *clepe*] Q6. *clip* Q2Q3Q4Q5.

II, i, 18 *if't*] Ff. *y'ft* Q2Q3Q4Q5. *if it* Q6.

III, ii, 87 *detecting*] Ff. *detected* Q2Q3Q4Q5. *detection* Q6. 301 *from*] *upon* Q6. 379 *breathes*] Q6. *breakes* Q2Q3Q4. *breaks* Q5. *breaths* F1F2. 380 *this*] *the* Q6. 383 *lose*] Q6. *loose* The rest.

III, iii, 35 *know*] *heare* Q6.

III, iv, 79 *sans*] Q6. *sance* The rest. 215 *in life*] *in's life* Q6.

More such readings may be found by consulting the Cambridge edition: I, i, 49, 93, 96, 161, 163; I, ii, 63, 92, 127, 137, 147, 179, 200, 209; I, iii, 3, 9, 17, 48, 128; I, iv, 5, 57, 67, 82, 84; I, v, 1, 26, 30, 35, 38, 41, 44, 95, 97, 107, 137, 150, 162, 174; II, i, 3, 18, 42, 49, 63, 65, 69, 77, 79, 94, 106, 112; II, ii, 12, 25, 30, 54, 80, 109, 125, 162, 164, 210, 224, 269, 277, 283, 294, 302, 311, 314, 359, 360, 362, 367, 380, 383, 396, 397, 414, 420, 424, 430, 444, 445, 449, 450, 455, 457, 478, 479, 482, 484, 489, 496, 497, 505, 516, 517, 550, 570, 571, 575, 579, 582; III, i, 10, 19, 30, 33, 46, 60, 61, 64, 65, 72, 75, 89, 92, 113, 118, 144, 147, 151, 161, 162, 163; III, ii, 25, 50, 51, 53, 57, 60, 63, 76, 96, 106, 153, 166, 171, 192, 218, 252, 267, 287, 301, 309, 313, 334, 337, 349, 370, 379, 380, 383, 388; III, iii, 6, 15, 26, 29, 35, 52, 58, 70, 75, 79, 93; III, iv, 22, 24, 77, 90, 116–118, 145, 161, 165, 188, 198, 210; IV, i, 13, 26; IV, iii, 6, 16, 35; IV, iv, 11, 14, 20, 24, 30, 60; IV, v, 26, 36, 55, 83, 102, 103, 129, 130, 138, 140, 173, 184, 197, 210; IV, vi, 8, 9, 16, 26; IV, vii, 7, 8, 11, 22, 29, 32, 45, 87, 115, 117, 122, 129, 159, 161, 174, 175, 191; V, i, 6, 18, 23, 76, 90, 107, 114. 118, 119, 124, 134, 147, 154, 160, 195, 211, 215, 218, 225, 242, 247, 268, 268, 284; V, ii, 13, 29–31, 52, 63, 67, 98, 102, 116, 125, 128, 140, 141, 145, 146, 155, 178, 201, 204, 211, 222, 257, 264, 273, 280, 295, 298, 300, 302, 303, 305, 318, 320, 329, 335, 350, 355, 357. Similar changes occur in other quartos, but so much less frequently that they would not suggest any special editorial work.

subsequently mentioned. I have, of course, ignored all texts other than the second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth quartos and the first and second folios; still I have allowed the "Ff" of the Cambridge editors to stand when the reading of the first two folios is also found in the following folios.

I, i

4 *Barnardo?* $F_1F_2Q_6$. *Barnardo.* The rest.
21 *What, has*] Q_2Q_3. *What ha's* Q_4Q_5. *What, ha's* $F_1F_2Q_6$.
65 *dead*] *same* F_2Q_6.
173 *duty?*] FfQ_6. *duty.* Q_2Q_3. *duety.* Q_4. *dutie.* Q_5.

I, ii

29 *bed-rid*] *bedred* $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$.
34 *Voltimand*] F_2. *Valtemand* $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$. *Voltemand* F_1Q_6.
83 *denote*] FfQ_6. *deuote* $Q_2Q_3Q_4$. *deuoute* Q_5.
105 *course* $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$. *Coarse* FfQ_6.
114 *retrograde*] F_1Q_6. *retrogard* $Q_2Q_3Q_4$. *retrograd* Q_5. *retrogarde* F_2.
118 *lose*] FfQ_6. *loose* The rest.
132 *self-slaughter*] *seale slaughter* $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$.
133 *weary*] FfQ_6. *wary* The rest.
157 *incestuous*] FfQ_6. *incestious* The rest.
174 *Elsonoure* $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$. *Elsenour* $F_1F_2Q_6$.
237 *hundred*] *hundreth* $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$.
256 *rise Though . . . . them to* $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$. *rise, Though . . . . them to* FfQ_6.

I, iii

16 *feare,* $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$. *feare* $F_1F_2Q_6$.
76 *loses*] FfQ_6. *looses* $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$.
77 *dulls the edge*] FfQ_6. *dulleth edge* Q_2Q_3. *dulleth the edge* Q_4Q_5.
122 *entreatments*] FfQ_6. *intreatments* $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$.
123 *parley*] FfQ_6. *parle* $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$.

I, iv

1 *shrewdly*] F_1Q_6. *shroudly* $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$. *shrew'dly* F_2.

I, v

47 *a*] FfQ_6. om. $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$.
84 *pursuest*] FfQ_6. *pursues* $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$.
121 *it?*] FfQ_6. *it,* The rest.
151 *Sellerige* $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$. *selleredge* F_1. *selleridge* F_2Q_6.
170 *so mere* $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$. *so ere* FfQ_6.

II, i

31 *quaintly*] *quently* $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$.
63 *take* $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$. *takes* FfQ_6.
113 *beshrew*] FfQ_6. *beshrow* The rest.

II, ii

1, 33, 34 *Guyldensterne* $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$. *Guildensterne* F_1Q_6. *Guildenstare* F_2.
5 *call*] $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$. *I call* FfQ_6.
39 *I* $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$. om. FfQ_6.
76 *shown*] *shone* $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$.
104 *thus.*] FfQ_6. *thus* $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$.
136 *a winking*] FfQ_6. *a working* $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$.
140 *star* Q_2Q_3. *starre* $Q_4Q_5F_1$. *sphere* F_2Q_6.
141 *prescripts*] $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$. *precepts* FfQ_6.
148 *a*] om. $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$.

151 *this*] $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$. *'tis this* FfQ_6. *like*] $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$. *likely* FfQ_6.

155 *this, if . . . . otherwise;* $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$. *this; if . . . . otherwise,* F_1. *this, if . . . . otherwise,* F_2Q_6.

176 *lord.* $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$. *lord?* FfQ_6.

190 *lord?*] FfQ_6. *Lord.* $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$.

192 *lord?*] FfQ_6. *Lord.* $Q_2Q_3Q_5$. *Lord,* Q_4.

193 *who?*] F_1Q_6. *who.* $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$. *whom?* F_2.

228 *lap* $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$. *Cap* Ff. *cap* Q_6.

271 *even*] FfQ_6. *euer* $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$.

295 *forgone*] FfQ_6. *forgon* $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$.

302 *What a piece*] FfQ_6. *What peece* $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$.

303–305 *faculty! . . . . god!*] Pointed substantially as in FfQ_6. *faculties, in . . . . moouing, how . . . . action, how . . . . apprehension, how . . . . God:* $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$.

315 *coted*] $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$. *coated* FfQ_6. *hither*] FfQ_6. *hether* The rest.

318 *of me*] FfQ_6. *on me* The rest.

332 *are they*] $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$. *they are* FfQ_6.

369 *lest my*] FfQ_6. *let me* Q_2Q_3. *let my* Q_4Q_5.

390 *my*] $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$. *mine* FfQ_6.

414 *pious chanson*] $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$. *Pans Chanson* Ff (*Pons* F_1). *pans chanson* Q_6.

450 *heraldry*] *heraldy* $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$.

470 *hideous*] *hiddious* $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$.

545 *fiction*] F_2Q_6. *fixion* The rest.

548 *in's*] F_1Q_6. *in his* $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$. *ins* F_2.

551 *Hecuba.* $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$. *Hecuba?* FfQ_6.

565–569 *coward? . . . . this?*] Pointed substantially as in FfQ_6. Commas in $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$.

III, i

6 *he will*] *a will* $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$.

29 *hither*] FfQ_6. *hether* The rest.

46 *loneliness*] *lowlines* Q_2Q_3. *lowlinesse* Q_4Q_5.

61 *more;*] F_1Q_6. *more,* Q_2Q_3. *more:* $Q_4Q_5F_2$.

66 *come,*] FfQ_6. *come* Q_2Q_3. *come?* Q_4Q_5.

85 *sicklied*] FfQ_6. *sickled* The rest.

140 *too*] FfQ_6. *to* The rest.

146 *Go to*] Q_5. *goe to* $Q_2Q_3Q_4$. *Go too* F_1Q_6. *Goe* F_2.

147 *marriage* $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$. *marriages* FfQ_6.

III, ii

13 *out-herods*] Hyphened in FfQ_6.

29 *praise*] FfQ_6. *praysd* $Q_2Q_3Q_4$. *praisd* Q_5.

41 *too*] *to* $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$.

46 *too*] FfQ_6. *to* The rest.

101 *Capitol*] F_1. *Capitall* $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$. *Capitoll* F_2Q_6.

107 *that?*] FfQ_6. *that.* $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$.

232 *how?*] FfQ_6. *how* $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$.

256 *name's*] F_1Q_6. *names* The rest.

265 *strooken* Q_2Q_3. *stroken* Q_4Q_5. *strucken* FfQ_6.

278 *paiock* $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$. *Paiocke* F_1Q_6. *Pajocke* F_2.

290 *vouchsafe*] FfQ_6. *voutsafe* $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$.

298 *for, for*] $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$. *for for* F_1Q_6. *for* F_2.

312 *lord?*] FfQ_6. *lord.* The rest.

319 *astonish*] FfQ_6. *stonish* $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$.

386 *daggers*] FfQ_6. *dagger* $Q_2Q_3Q_4Q_5$.

III, iii

37 *upon't*] FfQ$_6$. *vppont* Q$_2$Q$_3$Q$_4$Q$_5$.
73 *praying*] *a praying* Q$_2$Q$_3$Q$_4$Q$_5$.
81 *With all*] FfQ$_6$. *Withall* The rest.
90 *incestuous*] *incestious* Q$_2$Q$_3$Q$_4$Q$_5$.

III, iv

6 *warrant*] FfQ$_6$. *wait* Q$_2$Q$_3$. *waite* Q$_4$Q$_5$.
30 *king*. Q$_2$Q$_3$Q$_4$Q$_5$. *king?* FfQ$_6$.
37 *brasd* Q$_2$Q$_3$Q$_4$Q$_5$. *braz'd* FfQ$_6$.
42 *off*] FfQ$_6$. *of* The rest.
64 *mildew'd*] FfQ$_6$. *mildewed* Q$_2$Q$_3$Q$_4$. *mil-dewed* Q$_5$.
94 *stie*. Q$_2$Q$_3$Q$_4$Q$_5$. *Stye*. F$_1$F$_2$Q$_6$.
95 *my*] Q$_2$Q$_3$Q$_4$Q$_5$. *mine* FfQ$_6$.
97 *twentieth*] FfQ$_6$. *twentith* The rest.
102 *patches*, Q$_2$Q$_3$Q$_4$Q$_5$. *patches*. FfQ$_6$.
143 *And I the*] FfQ$_6$. *And the* Q$_2$Q$_3$Q$_4$Q$_5$.
155 *curbe* Q$_2$Q$_3$Q$_4$Q$_5$. *courb* F$_1$Q$_6$. *courbe* F$_2$.
179 *Thus*] FfQ$_6$. *This* The rest.
186 *rouell* Q$_2$Q$_3$Q$_4$Q$_5$. *to ravell* F$_1$F$_2$Q$_6$.
190 *paddock*] *paddack* Q$_2$Q$_3$Q$_4$Q$_5$.

IV, i

16 *answer'd*] *answered* FfQ$_6$.

IV, ii

28 *lord?*] FfQ$_6$. *Lord*. The rest.

IV, iii

19 *supper, where*. Q$_2$Q$_3$. *supper where*. Q$_4$Q$_5$. *supper? Where?* FfQ$_6$.
35 *indeed, if*] Ff. *if indeed* Q$_2$Q$_3$Q$_4$Q$_5$. *indeed if* Q$_6$.
46 *England?*] F$_1$Q$_6$. *England*. The rest.
52 *and so*] FfQ$_6$. *so* The rest.

IV, v

50 *clothes*] F$_1$Q$_6$. *close* Q$_2$Q$_3$Q$_4$Q$_5$. *cloathes* F$_2$.
103 *They*] *The* Q$_2$Q$_3$Q$_4$Q$_5$.
122 *Acts*] *Act's* Q$_2$Q$_3$Q$_4$Q$_5$.
196 *Christian*] FfQ$_6$. *Christians* Q$_2$Q$_3$Q$_4$Q$_5$.
202 *colaturall* Q$_2$Q$_3$Q$_4$. *collaturall* Q$_5$. *Colaterall* F$_1$. *Collaterall* F$_2$Q$_6$.

IV, vi

5 *greeted, if*] FfQ$_6$. *greeted. If* Q$_2$Q$_3$Q$_4$Q$_5$.

IV, vii

21 *gyves*] F$_1$F$_2$Q$_6$. *Giues* Q$_2$Q$_3$Q$_4$Q$_5$.
38 *Hamlet?* FfQ$_6$. *Hamlet*, The rest.
48 *mean? . . . . back?*] Pointed as in FfQ$_6$. Commas in Q$_2$Q$_3$Q$_4$Q$_5$.
154 *soft*, FfQ$_6$. *soft* The rest.
180 *indued*] F$_1$Q$_6$. *indewed* Q$_2$Q$_3$Q$_4$Q$_5$. *deduced* F$_2$.
184 *she is drownd*. Q$_2$Q$_3$. *is she drownd*. Q$_4$. *is she drown'd*. Q$_5$. *is she drown'd?* FfQ$_6$.

V, i

51 *carpenter?*] FfQ$_6$. *Carpenter*. The rest.
201 *thither*] F$_2$Q$_6$. *thether* The rest.
226 *Crants* Q$_2$Q$_3$Q$_4$Q$_5$. *Rites* FfQ$_6$.
255 *and*] FfQ$_6$. om. Q$_2$Q$_3$Q$_4$Q$_5$.
257 *hand.*] *hand*, Q$_2$Q$_3$. *hand?* Q$_4$Q$_5$.
271 *thou*] FfQ$_6$. The rest omit.
272 *grave?*] FfQ$_6$. *grave*, The rest.
279 *thus*] *this* Q$_2$Q$_3$Q$_4$Q$_5$.
293 *Till*] *Tell* Q$_2$Q$_3$Q$_4$Q$_5$.

V, ii

31 *sat*] *sate* FfQ$_6$.
55 *know'st*] FfQ$_6$. *knowest* Q$_2$Q$_3$Q$_4$Q$_5$.
94 *it is*] Q$_2$Q$_3$Q$_4$Q$_5$. *'tis* FfQ$_6$.
102 *laid*] *layed* Q$_2$Q$_3$Q$_4$Q$_5$.
154 *carriages*] FfQ$_6$. *carriage* The rest.
249 *off*] FfQ$_6$. *of* The rest.
256 *too*] FfQ$_6$. *to* Q$_2$Q$_3$Q$_4$Q$_5$.
296 *is it*] Q$_2$Q$_3$Q$_4$Q$_5$. *is't* FfQ$_6$.
306 *medicine*] FfQ$_6$. *medcin* Q$_2$Q$_3$Q$_4$. *medecine* Q$_5$.
308 *thy hand*] FfQ$_6$. *my hand* Q$_2$Q$_3$Q$_4$Q$_5$.
311 *poysned* Q$_2$Q$_3$Q$_4$Q$_5$. *poyson'd* F$_1$F$_2$Q$_6$.
312 *to blame*] *too blame* Q$_2$Q$_3$Q$_4$Q$_5$. F$_1$.
313 *too*] *to* Q$_2$Q$_3$Q$_4$Q$_5$.
317 *incestuous*] FfQ$_6$. *incestious* The rest.
318 *off this*] FfQ$_6$. *of this* The rest.
328, 329 *time, as . . . . arrest, ô* Q$_2$Q$_3$. *time as . . . . arrest. O* Q$_4$Q$_5$. *time, (as . . . . arrest) oh* FfQ$_6$.
377 *inuenters* Q$_2$Q$_3$Q$_4$Q$_5$. *Inuentors* F$_1$F$_2$Q$_6$.

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